



After Obama: *Race & Politics in Cincinnati*



NEWS

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Andrew Young to be Featured Guest on Live CET Program Special on Race and Politics in Cincinnati

Viewers can add their voices to the discussion via social media during broadcast

CINCINNATI, OH:---Project partners of ***Lincoln Legacy: A Cincinnati Celebration of Freedom***—in conjunction with the ***Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission*** (ALBC) in Washington, D.C.— will present a Town Hall Meeting entitled, “***After Obama: Race and Politics in Cincinnati***”. The one-hour program—which will continue streaming live on CETConnect for 30 minutes following the 60 minute broadcast on CET—will take place from 8:00-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2009. **WCPO-TV News Anchor Clyde Gray will host the program special.**

The program event is part of a series of Town Hall Meetings being held throughout the United States by the ALBC to explore issues of race, equality, social justice and history during the commemorative year marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Former congressman and UN Ambassador Andrew Young will be the featured guest. Program respondents include Father Michael Graham, President of Xavier University; Judge Nathaniel Jones, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; Jan Michele Lemon-Kearney, Publisher of the Cincinnati Herald and Maria G. Molina, Proctor and Gamble's Latin American Development Director and Americas Consumer Relations Manager.



Fetzer Institute

*Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Town Hall Meeting Support Sponsor*

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Program participants also include **John Pepper, community leader, historian and former chairman and CEO of Procter & Gamble**, a diverse group of area citizens and a live studio audience. Additionally, area high schools and universities as well as community organizations are being encouraged to organize “watch parties” to facilitate discussions around the questions being explored throughout the program. Viewers will also have opportunities to participate during the broadcast and subsequent program stream through real time polling and social media, including “Twitter”.

The program will pose several questions within the broader issue of race and politics in Cincinnati.

- ❖ With the election in 2005 of Mark Mallory as the first popularly-elected African-American Mayor of Cincinnati and the election of Barack Obama as President, has there been a shift in Cincinnati’s political and social mindset regarding race? In what ways is this most evident?
- ❖ Are the moral imperatives of racial freedom, equality of opportunity and “aspirational politics” as put forth by Abraham Lincoln mirrored in the culture shifts that are occurring as a result?
- ❖ What is the place of race in politics beyond racial identity?
- ❖ How have intensifying financial pressures affected racial progress?
- ❖ What are the legacy lessons of this notable convergence of history—Lincoln’s Bicentennial and the election of Obama?
- ❖ What can we know now about what the future may hold for Cincinnati and the nation? Where do we go from here to move further toward a post-racial society?

Lincoln Legacy: A Cincinnati Celebration of Freedom partners include CET, The Cincinnati Museum Center, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Senator Richard Finin.

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NOTE: Several additional community organizations have also come forward to become “co-conveners” of this important Town Hall Meeting. An updated list of those organizations is being finalized and will be distributed shortly.

Cincinnati was selected by the ALBC to present a Town Hall meeting as a result of the local project partnership that convened to develop opportunities for the region to celebrate the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. “We are fortunate to have Ambassador Young as our featured guest for Cincinnati’s Town Hall meeting,” said Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives—a Lincoln Legacy project partner. “Young, along with our featured local respondents, will give their perspectives on the long road we have traveled in our community as well as speaking about new initiatives that focus on peace and reconciliation.”

REGIONAL BACKGROUND

Antebellum Cincinnati played a large role in the abolitionist movement, partially due to its location as a major city in the free state of Ohio directly across the river from the slave state Kentucky. The “Queen City” became a major migration path for escaped slaves and in 1859, Abraham Lincoln made his first political visit to Cincinnati, where he challenged presidential hopeful Stephen Douglas’ views on slavery. Leading abolitionists such as Lyman Beecher, Salmon P. Chase, and Levi Coffin frequently spoke or wrote in support of freeing the slaves, however, the city was not accepting of blacks. There were riots, racial purges, and confrontations with runaway slaves and freemen kidnapped into bondage. Incidents of race-based violence continued after the Civil War with the most notable (and most recent) incident being the 2001 Cincinnati Riots.

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ATTACHMENTS

ANDREW YOUNG

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, 1977-1979

United States Congressman, 1973-1977

Mayor of Atlanta, 1982-1990

Co-Founding Principal and Chairman, GoodWorks International



Ambassador, Congressman, Mayor, humanitarian, ordained minister, international businessman and sports enthusiast, Andrew Young has been serving the country for almost 50 years. Ambassador Young's vision of advancing economic development with private sector involvement was honed during comprehensive leadership positions in public service and private industry.

Andrew Young is co-founding Principal and Chairman of GoodWorks International. This involvement allows him to execute his life-long mission of energizing the private sector to advance economic development in Africa and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Young began his first of three terms as an U.S. Congressman in 1973. In 1977, under the appointment of President Carter, he represented our country on an international level as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. From 1982 to 1989, Ambassador Young served as the Mayor of Atlanta, fostering a time of great prosperity and growth for that city - he played an instrumental role in bringing the 1996 Summer Olympic Games to Atlanta.

In addition to overseeing GoodWorks International, Ambassador Young is a Distinguished Executive Fellow and Honorary Professor of Public Policy at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. He is the former president of the National Council of Churches.

Ambassador Young serves on the National Security Council Advisory Board, and remains active in numerous charitable activities and organizations, including serving as National Spokesperson for Operation HOPE, a national non-profit self-help organization that seeks to bring economic self-sufficiency and a sustained spirit of revitalization to America's inner city communities.

Ambassador Young has published two books: *A Way Out of No Way* (Thomas Nelson Publishing) and *An Easy Burden* (Harper Collins). He is currently writing a memoir on Africa. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



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PROGRAM PRESENTATION CONTEXT

Abraham Lincoln—one of this country’s greatest Presidents—possesses a storied legacy. It is a legacy characterized by an unwavering commitment to the Union—to the country he loved—and to the ideals of freedom, democracy, and equal opportunity upon which it was founded.

The cause of human freedom for which Abraham Lincoln tirelessly fought throughout his astonishing, exemplary life speaks to us still today. Indeed, though the cause of human freedom has advanced measurably in the decades since Lincoln achieved the abolition of slavery, there is an urgent need to recognize that the struggle persists even today.

What can we learn from a man who lived so long ago? Perhaps the greatest lessons are rooted in the timeless example of a man who achieved greatness only by recognizing that others could never achieve greatness themselves if shackled by hatred, discrimination, or social doctrines that diminished their worth as fellow human beings.

Abraham Lincoln remains a vital, living force in this country—and indeed throughout the world. The enduring moral truths for which he fought so boldly preserved the very democracy that would have been shamed into extinction by the failure to recognize and uphold the sanctity and value of every human life.



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Background

As the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln approached, a diverse coalition of Greater Cincinnati institutions came together in 2007 to plan the region's commemoration and celebration of Abraham Lincoln's treasured legacy. Since that time, the project partners of **Lincoln Legacy—A Cincinnati Celebration of Freedom** have developed and presented opportunities for all the region's citizens to rededicate themselves to the highest ideals for which Lincoln ultimately gave his life.

The events and activities presented during the celebratory corridor were conceived to befit a region that is deeply connected to Lincoln's fight for freedom and justice. Activities have already included a public lecture by presidential scholar Doris Kearns Goodwin; a community-wide Lincoln reading initiative presented by the Public Library; a rededication of the Lincoln statue in Lytle Park; a 200th birthday party at the Krohn Conservatory—near the city's President's Tree Grove; and a Lincoln artifact exhibit at the Main Library downtown.

Project Partners

CET

The Cincinnati Museum Center

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

Senator Richard Finan

Lincoln Legacy—A Cincinnati Celebration of Freedom has received the official endorsement of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) based in Washington.

The Commission—comprised of fifteen members appointed by the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives— aims to renew Americans' appreciation of Lincoln's ideals of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity. The ALBC encourages all people to "live the Lincoln legacy" during the 200th birthday celebration corridor.

The ALBC is presenting a series of Town Hall Meetings throughout the country to explore issues of race, equality, social justice and history during the commemorative corridor. The Commission selected Cincinnati to develop and present the Town Hall television special.

